

REMARKS

Status of the Application

By the present Amendment, Applicant is canceling claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, Applicant is adding new claims 15-27, which correspond to previously canceled claims 1-6 and 8-14 (see Amendment of October 10, 2006).

Current Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/0040346 to Fukuda et al. (hereinafter "Fukuda"). Applicant is canceling claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering moot the rejection of this claim.

Previous Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As noted above, claims 15-27 correspond to previously canceled claims 1-6 and 8-14, which were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuda in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0061767 to Sladen et al. (hereinafter "Sladen;" see Final Office Action dated November 21, 2006). Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejection.

Independent claim 15 recites:

A portable terminal with camera, comprising:
 a first housing and a second housing which are movably
 connected to each other;
 an image pickup device which is arranged in one of the first
 housing and the second housing; and
 a first conversion lens which is arranged in the other of the
 first housing and the second housing,
 wherein in a first state where the first housing and the
 second housing are laid on each other, the image pickup device and

the conversion lens have an identical optical axis so that a focal length of the image pickup device is converted from a focal length in a second state where the first housing and the second housing are arranged to each other differently than the first state, said portable terminal further comprising a second conversion lens, and means for replacing said first conversion lens with said second conversion lens.

The grounds of rejection maintain that Fukuda discloses each element of claim 15, except “said portable terminal further comprising a second conversion lens, and means for replacing said first conversion lens with said second conversion lens.” However, the grounds of rejection assert that Sladen discloses this feature, and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Sladen into the portable terminal of Fukuda. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Because Fukuda discloses an adapter optical system 28 with lenses 28A and 28B (§ [0090]), Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to replace the adapter optical system 28 of Fukuda with the array of mirror elements 714 of Sladen. As shown in Fig. 1B of Fukuda, the folding-dual-housing geometry of the cellular phone would not allow the array of mirror elements 714 of Sladen to direct light toward the camera 18 in either configuration in which the camera 18 operates.

In the folded operation of Fukada, the mirror elements 714 of Sladen would block light from impinging on the camera 18. Further, in the unfolded operation of Fukuda, the mirror elements 714 of Sladen would not be able to reflect light onto the camera 18. In contrast, the single housing arrangement of Sladen relies on the mirror elements 714 to direct light to the camera 702, and also to capture images from two different points of view.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 15 distinguishes over Fukuda and Sladen. Further, claims 16-27 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 15, as well as their additionally recited features.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

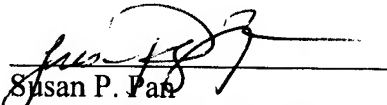
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